

Early Education Entitlement For Two Year Olds

The DfE perspective

Patrick Towgood

Early Education and Childcare Division

Department for
Education

It will be a legal entitlement:

- Eligible two year olds will have a **legal entitlement** to a free place

First Phase – 20%

- Mirror free schools meals criteria, so a single, national measure of economic disadvantage
- + Looked after children

Second Phase – 40%

- Developing proposals – watch this space

Department for
Education

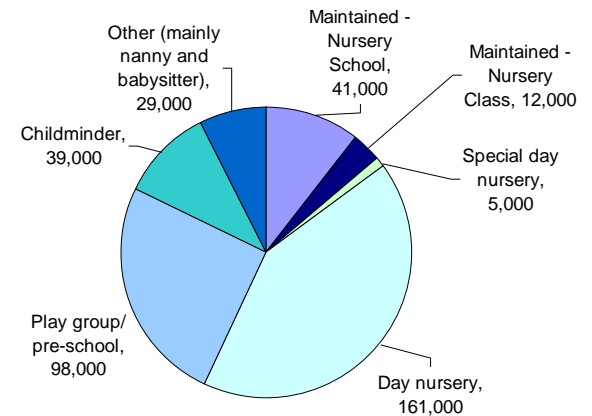
The funding is there:



- **£760m nationally** by 2014-15
- Building up in advance of 2014-15, to support development of capacity and quality
- A long-term feature not a short-term initiative
- **No national hourly rates:** local authorities to decide locally in conjunction with providers

It will be delivered in a wide variety of childcare settings:

At the moment most provision for two year olds is **private or voluntary**.



We know it will be challenging:

Ensuring sufficient funding:

- Higher cost of provision for 2s, compared to 3s and 4s
- Ensure that providers receive funding, address lack of ringfencing
- Providers need revenue through the year, not just in term times

Increasing supply of places:

- Timescale is tight, it takes time to create new places
- Must increase awareness among providers so they begin to expand
- Access to loans and funding, to expand or convert settings

Ensuring high quality, especially in disadvantaged areas:

- Recruiting high-quality staff, providing training opportunities
- Specific skills are needed for two year olds

But we can learn from 2011-12 trials:

Nature	Areas
Increasing capacity, through greater flexibility	Hartlepool, Rotherham, Walsall/Wolverhampton
Developing the workforce	Medway, North Yorkshire
Assisting providers	Derbyshire, Manchester/Tameside, Southampton
Supporting childminders	Northamptonshire, Sunderland, Sutton/Merton
Improving quality	Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Tower Hamlets

And from trials in 2012-13...

- 10 local authority trials to:
 - Stimulate growth in capacity
 - Encourage parental demand
 - Improve and sustain quality
- With the aim of delivering to the initial group of eligible two year olds from September

Successful trial areas announced on 30 May

What's been happening?

- Government response to early education consultation published on 30 May
- Learning from 2011-12 trials
- 2012-13 trials
- Revised estimates of no two-year-olds who will be eligible from September 2013 in all 152 local authority areas
- National Support Contract

Questions for discussion:

- **What do you see as your challenges?**
 - What stops existing providers from expanding and new providers from entering the market?
 - How can we ensure that the right quality provision is available locally?
 - How can parents be supported to understand and take-up the offer?

- **How might these challenges be overcome?**
 - What would positively incentivise existing providers to expand and new entrants to join the market?